



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge

*Comprehensive Conservation Plan
February 2011*



Front cover:

Main Tract -Glade Run

Kent Mason

Nature study at Blackwater River

David Seals

American woodcock

Richard Baetsen/USFWS

Glade spurge

Ken Sturm/USFWS

Cheat Mountain salamander and eggs

Kent Mason

Back cover:

Main Tract -Glade Run

Kent Mason



*This blue goose, designed by J.N.
“Ding” Darling, has become the
symbol of the National Wildlife
Refuge System.*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 150-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 550 national wildlife refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance Program which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to State wildlife agencies.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans provide long term guidance for management decisions and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes and identify the Service's best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program planning levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. The plans do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.



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Submitted by:



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Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge

2/14/2011

Date

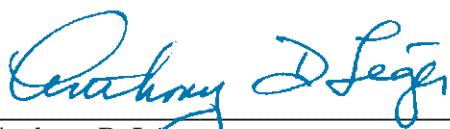
Concurrence by:



Daryle Lons
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2/15/11

Date



Anthony D. Leger
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National Wildlife Refuge System

2/15/11

Date

Approved by:



Marvin E. Moriarty
Regional Director, Region 5

2/25/11

Date



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Refuge Vision Statement

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge showcases the largest contiguous, high elevation wetland complex in West Virginia and harbors a vast assemblage of rare plants and animals normally associated with more northern latitudes. The refuge conserves, protects, and manages a mosaic of wetland, forested, and early successional habitat that supports migratory birds and threatened and endangered species. As a steward of a significant portion of the headwaters, the Refuge ensures the integrity of the natural resources of the upper Blackwater River watershed. Refuge habitats and wildlife are conserved and managed through research and collaboration with Federal, State, and local conservation partners.

As an integral part of the surrounding community, the Refuge provides high quality, safe, wholesome, and diverse opportunities for education and recreation, especially hunting and wildlife observation. The refuge experience fosters public interest in the beauty and unique character of Canaan Valley, an appreciation of fish and wildlife ecology, plant ecology, and stewardship of the natural world. Visitors develop a greater understanding and appreciation for the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and refuge management programs, and for the importance of protecting lands for wildlife conservation.



Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Comprehensive Conservation Plan February 2011

Summary

Type of Action:	Administrative
Lead Agency:	U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
Responsible Official:	Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director, Region 5
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This Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the 16,193-acre Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Canaan Valley NWR) is the culmination of a planning effort involving West Virginia State agencies, local partners, refuge neighbors, private landowners, the Canaan Valley NWR Friends Group, and the local community. This CCP establishes 15-year management goals and objectives for wildlife and habitats, public use, and administration and facilities.

Under this plan, we make improvements to the refuge's biological and public use programs. We will balance the conservation of a mixed-forest matrix landscape with the management of early successional habitats and the protection of wetlands. We will also increase opportunities for hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation on the refuge, and we will improve our outreach and visibility in the community through new or enhanced partnerships. Finally, we will employ an adaptive management approach that includes adjusting our objectives and strategies as a result of new information.

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